



February 2022
Happy Valentine's Day!

Join us at a Virtual Open House Event!

Is this your first year at YMCA Camp Hayo-Went-Ha or YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha? Would you like to learn more about HWH Camps? Do you have friends who may also be interested in learning more about our camps?

We have scheduled three Virtual Open House events – opportunities for first-time families and camp prospects to learn all about our summer programs and activities. Please invite everyone you know to join us at one of these events. We'd love your help to connect with new families.

- **Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00pm (EST)**
- **Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00pm (EST)**
- **Thursday, March 3 at 7:00pm (EST)**

No need to register in advance! Choose the date that best fits your schedule. Then, **visit our** website at <https://hayowentha.org/our-events/> on your chosen date and join the event! Please call 231-544-5915 or email the [Camp Directors](#) for more details.

Returning families, summer staff and alumni are welcome to join us as well. Please spread the word about these events and help us to fill our camps for the 2022 summer season.

From the CEO

We're looking for **"magic makers!"**

That's just another name for the incredible young adults (and some not so young!) that comprise our Hayo-Went-Ha Camps summer staff. They're a special breed. During my tenure as director at another YMCA camp (I won't mention any names!), I had a staff week conversation with an exceptional young man who was a first-year counselor after several summers as a camper.



He opted to work with our youngest boys – all spending their first summer at camp. He said this to me – and it's always stayed with me:

"As a camper, it's so amazing to experience the magic that happens at camp. But, as a staff member, we get to make that magic and it's such a powerful and rewarding feeling."

I've never been able to capture this sentiment any better than this!

We're looking for our 2022 magic makers! It's proving to be a challenging endeavor as we're still reeling from the pandemic and its impact on summer camp staffing. We need the help of our community to identify caring, creative and enthusiastic individuals to join our team. You can refer them to the [employment section of our website](#) or reach out to our camp directors ([Bill](#) and [Amanda](#)) with any staff recommendations.

Or – maybe YOU'RE interested in joining us this summer..

On another topic, I'm pleased to report that our board and staff are finalizing the details on our new strategic plan. Our camps have operated for almost ten years *without* such a plan. A good strategic plan functions like a compass – or roadmap – and keeps us all focused on the same destination.

Hundreds of hours have been devoted to this process. Special thanks must be paid to our strategic planning task force – Brad Middlekauff, Katie Sulau, Bob Ulrich, John Kelley and Chris Holter (chair) – who have guided this process from start to finish.

We'll soon share the finished plan with our community. We've already begun the next phase: the implementation plan with annual, measurable action steps. A strategic plan is only as good as its execution!

These are exciting times for Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!

Dave

[Dave DeLuca](#)

YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps CEO



January Moments A Great Social Media Success!

Thank you to all the campers, staff and alumni who submitted a photo and their January Memory. Each and every post was a joy to share and only created more excitement for the pending summer. As promised the post with the most likes will receive a camp hoodie. So without further ado - congratulations Emily W for your winning entry.

One of my favorite January moments was on Isle Royale - obviously, since it was SO much fun! It was about halfway through our trip and after a long hike we made it to the Ojibway Fire Tower. We waited up there for about an hour before we saw the other cabin, Bows in the distance! We screamed at them and they yelled for us and we all got so excited and ran down to see them for the first time in a week! We were all yelling and sharing stories about our hikes and I remember being so happy and excited the whole time. We missed them so much and I always smile when I remember how we were all smiling and laughing together.

Our daily posts throughout the month generated so many likes and comments from our camp community. It was so wonderful to hear from so many alumni who shared their very own January Moments of camp!



Ahoy! Calling All Sailors!

YMCA Camp Hayo-Went-Ha needs your help! We're looking for skilled sailors who have the time and interest to serve as the captain of one (or more) of our sailing trips this summer.

The pandemic has left a gap in the experience level of our sailors and we want to maintain the highest quality sailing program possible. Our cabin leaders would be responsible for the supervision of campers, while our sailing captains will oversee all technical aspects of the trip and boat management. We're looking for folks with larger keel boat experience on the Great Lakes that can lead the crew of young men and teach them the joys of open water sailing. This may be a paid or volunteer position. Our sailing trips range in length from five to fourteen days.



If you are interested and have a week or two to sail the clear, blue waters of the Great Lakes, please contact [HWH Camp Director Bill Hinton.](#)



We're Filling Fast for the 2022 Summer!

Coming off a very successful 2021 camping season, it's not surprising that we're seeing strong interest and enrollment in our 2022 summer programs. Both of our overnight camps have already surpassed 80% of our '22 enrollment goals, with some programs filled with waiting lists. SPARKS Day Camp is starting to see significant registration activity as well.

Please don't delay if you'd like your family to be a part of the 2022 summer at Hayo-Went-Ha Camps! You can start the [enrollment process here](#).



2022 Campership Applications!

Each summer our camps provide fun, impactful experiences for kids whose families otherwise could not afford a camp session. In 2021 our financial assistance (campership) program allocated more than \$150,000 to such families. This allowed eighty-five children to experience our summer camp programs.

New for 2022 is our procedure for awarding campership funds. This year the camp directors will make allocations on a rolling basis starting this month. Information about our campership program may be found [here](#).

Our campership fund is made possible through donations by camp alumni and friends who believe in the YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps mission and wish to see all children have access to a camp experience. You can support our campership fund by [making a secure, online donation](#).

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
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